




ZOO GOER

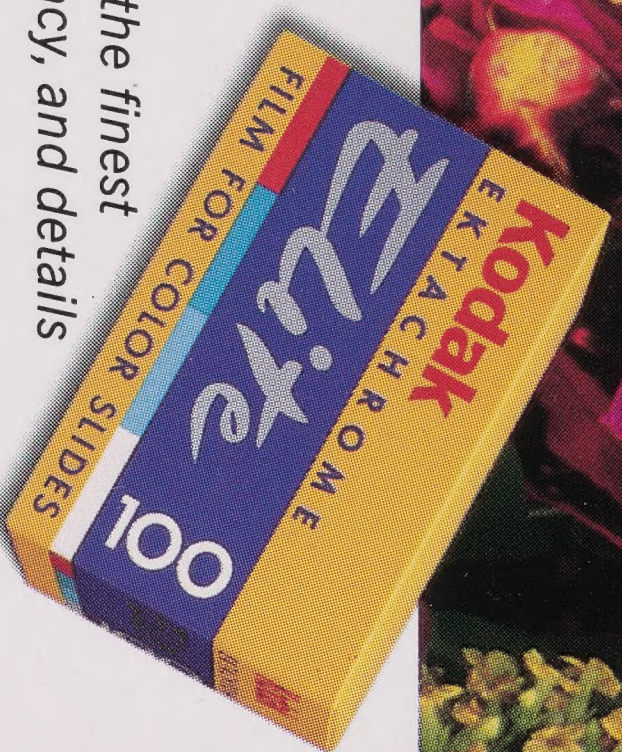
CELEBRATING ZOO BREEDING PROGRAMS





Catch what might otherwise go unnoticed.

 Ektachrome Elite 100 film is Kodak's sharpest Ektachrome ever, with the finest grain of any 100-speed slide film. It delivers outstanding color accuracy, and details so sharp, nothing will go unnoticed. Not even a chameleon.





1996: CELEBRATING ZOO BREEDING PROGRAMS

Over the past few decades, zoos have become metaphoric life rafts for endangered species. Carefully orchestrated zoo breeding programs now help wildlife populations in several ways. First, there are some animals—including Pere David's deer and Prezwalski's horse—that are extinct in the wild, surviving only in zoos until safe habitat can be set aside to reintroduce them. Second, zoo reintroduction programs are bolstering dwindling wild populations of such animals as the golden lion tamarin, a small monkey that still hangs on in isolated blocks of its Brazilian habitat. Third, many endangered animals like tigers, orangutans, and rhinoceroses are being bred at many zoos with the hopes that self-sustaining, genetically diverse zoo populations will provide insurance against possible extinction in the wild. And finally, zoo breeding of non-endangered species like the green tree python often enables institutions to exchange species popular in zoos rather than collect them from the wild.

The American Zoo Association, an umbrella group for accredited North American zoos, helps coordinate formal breeding plans called Species Survival Plans (SSPs). SSPs ensure the development of self-sustaining zoo populations of declining species. The National Zoo has helped establish and coordinate many SSPs, and currently participates in SSPs for 29 species.

As the Smithsonian Institution celebrates its 150th year, the National Zoo, with its unique collection of animals, celebrates its 107th. Over the years, the Zoo has grown in scope and importance, from a place breeding a few endangered American bison to a leader in global conservation programs. This year's FONZ calendar celebrates that success by highlighting just a handful of the Zoo's achievements in breeding threatened and endangered species.



RED WOLVES

In 1973, conservationists, fearing the impending extinction of the red wolf, established a zoo breeding program with the last of the red wolves known to survive in the wild. Eleven cubs have been raised at the Zoo since 1990, when it became the nineteenth zoo to participate in breeding the red wolf as a part of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's recovery plan. Many of the cubs have been reintroduced to wildlife reserves in the Appalachians and along the southeastern U.S. coast, and there are now more than 100 red wolves in zoos and in the wild.

PREZWALSKI'S HORSE

The only truly wild horses that survived to be scientifically studied, Prezwalski's horses once inhabited the grasslands, steppes, and semi-arid shrub country of Kazakhstan, China's Sinkiang province, Mongolia, and Siberia. Though they are considered extinct in the wild, specimens taken from the wild in the late 1800s have provided a modern breeding pool of more than 600 animals in zoos and field stations, including the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center. Two herds were successfully released on a reserve in Mongolia in 1994, providing hope that they may once again breed in the wild.



FEBRUARY

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

JANUARY

MARCH

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28	29	30	31			

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

○ Full Moon

● Last Quarter

● New Moon

● First Quarter

Lincoln's Birthday

President's Day

Valentine's Day

Ash Wednesday

Black History Month begins

Groundhog Day

Washington's Birthday



GUAM RAIL

Though a secretive bird, adapted to both woodland and forest-edge habitats, the flightless Guam rail was unable to withstand predation by the brown tree snake that was introduced to its island home after World War II. About a decade ago, with few of these rails left on Guam, researchers began to establish a zoo population in the United States, and they have since worked to rebuild the wild population through a breeding program involving 16 zoos and the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources. Sixty-two Guam rails have hatched at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center; a total of 84 have been released on Rota, an island near Guam.

MARCH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

FEBRUARY

S M T W T F S
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18 19 20 21 22 23 24
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APRIL

S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

3

4

○ Full Moon

5

6

7

8

Women's History Month begins

9

1889—National Zoological
Park established

Purim begins at sundown

10

11

● Last Quarter

12

13

14

15

FONZ spring classes
for children begin

16

17

18

● New Moon

19

20

21

22

23

St. Patrick's Day

24/31

25

● First Quarter

26

27

Vernal equinox

28

29

FONZ Seal Days

30

FONZ Seal Days
Palm Sunday on the 31st

GREEN TREE PYTHON

The green tree python is actually brilliant yellow when it hatches, and does not transform to its namesake bright green until it reaches six to eight months old. Green tree pythons, which are native to the tropical forests of New Guinea and extreme northeastern Australia, excel in zoo breeding programs. Zoo keepers regulate day length, light level, humidity, and temperature to ensure success in breeding these colorful reptiles.



APRIL

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

○ Full Moon

4

5

6

April Fool's Day

Passover begins at sundown

Good Friday

7

8

9

☾ Last Quarter

10

11

12

13

Easter Sunday
Daylight Savings Time begins
2 a.m. ("spring forward" 1 hour)

African American Family
Celebration at the Zoo
Easter Monday

14

15

16

☾ New Moon

17

18

19

20

FONZ Earth Day Celebration

21

22

23

24

☾ First Quarter

25

26

27

FONZ Earth Day Celebration

28

29

30

MARCH

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MAY

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ARABIAN ORYX

The last known wild Arabian oryx was killed in 1972, but fortunately an international breeding program began in 1962 when nine Arabian oryx were brought to the U.S. Now, as a result of a reintroduction program, nearly 300 of these animals live on reserves established in Oman and Saudi Arabia. Since the first Arabian oryx arrived at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center in 1987, 23 calves have been born. Many of these young animals have been reintroduced to reserves in the wild.

MAY

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Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

APRIL

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JUNE

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30						

Asian-Pacific Heritage
Month begins

○ Full Moon

◐ Last Quarter

ZooFari for kids

● New Moon

ZooFari

◑ First Quarter

Mother's Day

Memorial Day

BONGO

Occupying the forest regions of Africa from Sierra Leone to Kenya, bongos are rarely seen, deep-forest dwellers. These elusive animals were not seen in zoos until the 1970s, and the first zoo birth took place at the National Zoo in August of 1971. Much anticipation surrounded this birth because the bongo's gestation period had never before been recorded. Even today much remains to be learned about these animals, both in zoos and in the wild.



JUNE

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2	3	4	5	6	7	<div>Last Quarter</div> <div>8</div>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<div>New Moon</div> <div>16</div>	17	18	19	20	<div>Zoo Night Flag Day</div> <div>21</div>	22
<div>Father's Day</div> <div>Full Moon on the 30th</div> <div>23/30</div>	<div>First Quarter</div> <div>24</div>	25	26	<div>Summer solstice</div> <div>27</div>	28	29
	Summer Safari begins			Sunset Serenades	Zoo Night	



GOLDEN LION TAMARINS

1996 marks the twelfth anniversary of the National Zoo's first reintroduction of a zoo-born golden lion tamarin into Brazil's Atlantic coastal forest. Visitors to the Zoo in the summertime can see free-ranging tamarins in the park—animals that are practicing their survival skills before they're flown to Brazil for reintroduction. With more than 450 golden lion tamarins in institutions throughout the world and about 600 in the wild, scientists are now hopeful that they may someday soon reach their goal of a wild tamarin population of 2,000.

JULY

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Last Quarter	8	9	10	11 Independence Day	12	13
14	15 New Moon	16	17	18 Sunset Serenades	19	20
21	22	23 First Quarter	24	25 Sunset Serenades	26	27
28	29	30 Full Moon	31	Sunset Serenades		

JUNE						
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AUGUST						
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LOWLAND GORILLA

The Zoo has celebrated the births of three lowland gorillas in the last four years. These gorillas, which occupy the tropical rainforests of equatorial Africa, form tight social units in which only one dominant male breeds. Zoo staff have worked hard to establish a stable social group of lowland gorillas, and recent and anticipated births are testimony to their success.



AUGUST

Sunday

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Wednesday

Thursday

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Saturday

JULY

SEPTEMBER

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☾ Last Quarter

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Sunset Serenades

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☾ New Moon

14

15

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☾ First Quarter

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☾ Full Moon

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MATSCHIE'S TREE KANGAROO

Eighty Matschie's tree kangaroos have been born at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center (CRC) since April 1977. These brightly colored marsupials occupy the highland rainforests of eastern New Guinea, where they are heavily hunted. Researchers at CRC and elsewhere are attempting to establish a large breeding population in hopes of offsetting the consequences of overhunting.

SEPTEMBER

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22 Hispanic Heritage Month begins	23	24	25	26 Full Moon	27	28																																																																																				
29 Yom Kippur begins at sundown Autumnal equinox	30				<div><div>AUGUST</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr></table></div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<div><div>OCTOBER</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>ZooArts Festival</div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
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WHITE-CHEEKED GIBBONS

The genus name for the gibbons, *Hylobates*, means “dweller in the trees.” As the name suggests, gibbons are arboreal animals adapted for life in the tropical forest canopy. The white-cheeked gibbons (shown here) are found in eastern Cambodia, southeast China, Laos, Vietnam, and the island of Hainan, where they are seriously threatened by deforestation. Eight white-cheeked gibbons have been born at the Zoo since 1988, and the Zoo is a major participant in the Species Survival Plan for these primates, holding over one-fifth of the North American zoo breeding population.



OCTOBER

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Daylight Savings Time ends
2 a.m. ("fall back" 1 hour)

Halloween

☾ Last Quarter

● New Moon

☾ First Quarter

☾ Full Moon

FONZ annual meeting
and Zoo-by-night tour

FONZ
Halloween Party for children

SEPTEMBER

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NOVEMBER

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CHEETAH

Cheetah populations have rapidly declined over the last thirty years, and the remaining populations in southern and eastern Africa continue to be threatened by both hunting and habitat loss. Zoo breeding has been difficult, perhaps due to the genetic uniformity of the population, but the Zoo hopes to overcome the odds.

N O V E M B E R

Sunday

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Friday

Saturday

OCTOBER

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13 14 15 16 17 18 19
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27 28 29 30 31

DECEMBER

S M T W T F S
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

☾ Last Quarter

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☾ New Moon

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16

Election Day

☾ First Quarter

17

18

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22

23

Veteran's Day

☾ Full Moon

24

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American Indian Heritage
Month begins

Running Wild at the Zoo

Thanksgiving

SUMATRAN TIGER

Five tiger subspecies occupy a variety of habitats from the Russian Far East to India and Indonesia. The total world population of tigers is now around 5,000—less than a tenth of what the tiger population in India alone was a century ago. The Zoo has been working for more than twenty-five years to curb this population decline through research and breeding programs. The Sumatran tiger has been a major focus of these programs, and this cub is one of four born at the Zoo in the last five years.



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Last Quarter	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 New Moon	11	12 1973—National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center established	13 First night of Hanukkah begins at sundown	14
15	16	17 First Quarter	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Full Moon	25	26	27	28 Winter solstice
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	Christmas Day			1973—Congress enacted Endangered Species Act

NOVEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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SLOTH BEAR

Although sloth bears' noisy feeding habits (such as sucking termites out of their mounds) make them easy targets for hunters, who can hear them up to 200 yards away, habitat loss has also significantly contributed to their population decline. These nocturnal animals occupy moist and dry forests of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Three sloth bears have been born at the Zoo in the past six years as part of a Species Survival Plan, and two of these were recently sent to the Cincinnati Zoo.

JANUARY

Sunday

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Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

DECEMBER

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FEBRUARY

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New Year's Day

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
(observed)

☾ Last Quarter

● New Moon

☾ First Quarter

☾ Full Moon

☾ Last Quarter

ZOO GOER

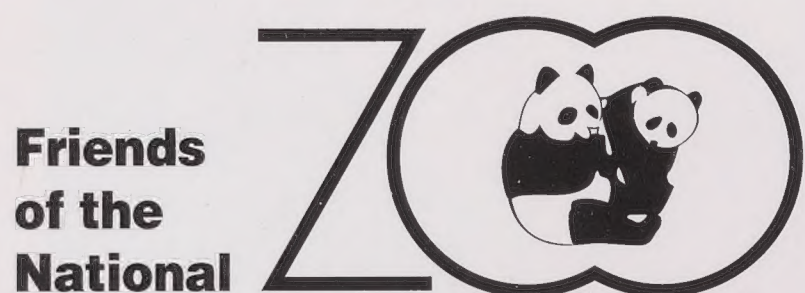
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Friends of the National Zoo is a nonprofit organization of individuals, families, and organizations who are interested in helping to maintain the status of the National Zoological Park as one of the world's great zoos, to foster its use for education, research, and recreation, to increase and improve its facilities and collections, and to advance the welfare of its animals.

ZooGoer [ISSN 0163-416X] is published six times a year by Friends of the National Zoo to promote its aims and programs, and to provide information about FONZ activities to its members, volunteers, and others interested in the purposes of FONZ. Third class mailing permit no. 6282. Copyright 1995, Friends of the National Zoo, National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. 20008. All rights reserved.

The National Zoological Park is located in the 3000 block of Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, 202-673-4717. Weather permitting, the Zoo is open every day except Christmas. Hours: From October 16 to April 14, grounds are open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; buildings, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. From April 15 to October 15, grounds are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; buildings, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Director: Michael H. Robinson.

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Address _____

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☐ MasterCard

☐ VISA

☐ Discover

Account no. _____

Signature _____ Exp. date _____

☐ I have enclosed a personal check.

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REFRESH
YOUR
SENSES.



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Washington, D.C. 20008

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